

Mr. Nelson said the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Mackubin,) was mistaken. The constitution of 1851 had laid down neither rule or precedent of the kind alleged. The Convention of 1864 first put the word "white" in the constitution, and this was somewhat to be wondered at, considering that they had so much love for the negro. They had at that time control of Washington, Allegany and Frederick counties, from each of which they might have formed a new radical county if it suited their purposes, and this was why the discrimination was made against the other counties where they had no power. He submitted that the constitution of 1851 laid down no such rule, and northern county man as he was, he was in favor of the power remaining in the hands of the small counties, which had always wielded it for the glory and benefit of the State.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 38 nays to 33 yeas.

Section 3, which was laid over on Thursday evening, was then returned to.

Mr. Carter submitted the following as a substitute for the section:

"The Governor and all officers, civil and military, now holding office under this State, whether by election or appointment, whose offices are continued under this constitution, shall continue to hold, exercise and discharge the duties of their respective offices (except in cases otherwise provided for in this constitution) until their successors, for whose election or appointment provision is made in this constitution, shall respectively be duly qualified."

After considerable debate, Mr. Carter withdrew his substitute.

Other amendments were offered, but the section was finally adopted as reported.

The article of the report headed, "Vote on the new constitution" was then proceeded with.

Mr. Syester moved an amendment that if adopted the constitution shall immediately go into effect.

Mr. Carter thought it more advisable that the Convention should name a particular day on which the constitution should go into effect.